



SYNOPSIS

Volume 4, Issue 1

January 7, 2003

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Vendor Forum

Over 100 people attended the WEDI Vendor Forum in Atlanta, Georgia on December 5, 2002 which was co-presented by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Association for Electronic Health Care Transactions, (AFEHCT), and the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA).

The conference was designed to create an interactive forum, bringing together vendors who are affected by the HIPAA regulations, along with providers and payers who will need their HIPAA products, tools and services to achieve compliance. The program focused on identifying how far along vendors are with their HIPAA implementation readiness, the key issues and concerns of payers and providers regarding their level of readiness, and how vendors' products and services are affected by the government mandated HIPAA regulations.

CMS' Health Care Provider Workshop Draws Hundreds from South Dakota

On December 10, 2002, CMS offered their first regional training program: Health Care Provider Readiness Workshop in Mitchell, South Dakota. The free seminar attracted close to 300 attendees, mostly all from the state. All the speakers/trainers for the CMS event are avid WEDI SNIP volunteers, with the exception of the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) presenter.

CMS recognizes the importance of reaching out to health care providers and their software vendors to increase their awareness of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Administrative Simplification requirements. Program topics covered in the day-long seminar included: explaining who is a covered entity and who isn't, understanding the benefits and costs of HIPAA's administrative simplification requirements, how to implement HIPAA requirements, and an

overview of key deadlines. In addition, CMS arranged for a speaker from the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) to present on privacy issues during the lunch. Overall attendee responses to the program were positive. CMS is now preparing to deliver their next program.

CMS Plans For More Crowds In Nebraska

With the success of their first regional training program, CMS is now readying itself for their next venue: North Platte, Nebraska. Taking place Thursday, January 23, 2003 at the Holiday Inn Express in North Platte, NE, CMS is offering another full day of educational programming for free.

To read a press release about the CMS program in North Platte, Nebraska, visit <http://www.wedi.org/snip/public/articles/ACF1531.doc>. To review the program agenda and register for the meeting, go to <http://www.wedi.org/snip/public/articles/ACF1530.doc>.

WEDI Foundation, CHITA Offer Valuable Programming In Seattle

The WEDI Foundation launched their first regional training program, *HIPAA Solutions: Achieving Compliance*, on December 12-13, 2002 at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center in Seattle, Washington. Working side by side with CHITA (Community Health Information Technology Alliance), the Northwest Regional SNIP Affiliate, WEDI Foundation staff built a 1 ½ day program to focus on providing awareness and training to small providers, small health plans, and to rural and underserved entities.

Expert presenters included former WEDI Chair Steve Lazarus, WEDI SNIP Privacy & Security Co-Chair Lesley Burkeyheiser, WEDI SNIP Education Co-Chair Joan Boyle, and Education Coordinator for UHIN (Utah Health Information Network) Doreen Espinoza. Interactive panel presenters included SNIP Co-Chair Larry Watkins, Transactions & Code Sets Co-Chair Don Bechtel, Sue Merk (Siemens), Wes Watson (Ogden Murphy Wallace) and Sunny Singh (Edifecs).

Overall, attendee responses to the program were very positive. Read a few of the evaluation comments we received:

We've all heard "the basics" a million times, so I appreciated the real-life examples and clear steps to take and focus on the benefits.

Leslie provided an invaluable service in describing from her experience the entire process of implementation.

Excellent presentations by all speakers.

Great networking ability! Q&A panel was extremely helpful.

In addition to the WEDI Foundation programming, a half day of programming was sponsored by CHITA and featured training on documenting implementation efforts, pre-emption, and self-testing vs. third party certification as related to transactions and code sets.



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WEDI Foundation and CHITA wish to thank the event sponsors for their support. The conference was sponsored in large part from the generous donations from Siemens e. Health and ZixCorp.

WEDI Foundation is currently seeking requests from other official WEDI Regional SNIP Affiliates for their interest in offering the **HIPAA Solutions: Achieving Compliance** program in their region. Interested RSAs can contact Ann Marie Railing, Director of Regional Education & Operations, WEDI at amrailing@wedi.org or 703-391-2718 or Rikki Epstein, Executive Director of WEDI Foundation, WEDI at repstein@wedi.org or 703-391-2717.

Final Rules on Security and Transaction Addendum...TBD

The much anticipated final rules for both Security and the Addendum to the Transactions and Code Sets have been delayed from the rumored December 27, 2002 deadline. As of now, no publication date has been set.

While the long-awaited final Security Rule has been delayed to an unspecified date, WEDI is planning to conduct a Security Policy Advisory Group (PAG) Forum once the final rule has been published. WEDI will announce the date and location on our website.

WEDI To Conduct PAG on DDE Issue

One of the roles of WEDI SNIP is to assist in the implementation of the HIPAA mandates, not to interpret the meaning of the mandates. As the DDE white paper evolved, it became evident that most of the controversy stemmed from differing interpretations of the rule, rather than on how to implement a DDE function. At the November WEDI SNIP summit, this culminated in a decision to remove the DDE debate from the SNIP process and refer the matter to the WEDI Board of Directors to determine what course of action to pursue. At the subsequent November meeting of the Board, it was decided to create an industry Policy Advisory Group to determine what the industry needed in regard to DDE services.

As a result, WEDI will conduct a DDE Policy Advisory Group (PAG) in Chicago in early March, in conjunction with the WEDI SNIP Forum, to determine industry needs in regard to DDE. The information gained via the PAG will be used to develop a formal WEDI recommendation. WEDI will then consult as required or appropriate with the Secretary of HHS, NCVHS, WEDI Members, WEDI SNIP participants and other constituencies as needed. The Board will also provide additional DDE related guidance to the WEDI SNIP Transactions and Code Sets Work Group if needed.

We welcome and encourage your participation in this PAG. If you are interested in this topic, please continue to monitor the WEDI web site and other WEDI information sources such as listservs to look for registration information. WEDI will share any news or updates on the final rules when we hear about them.



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WEDI SNIP Workgroup Updates

✱ Transactions & Code Sets:

All of our sub-workgroups have been busy the holiday lull notwithstanding and like others most of their communication is via the listservs so please participate in those of interest by following the subscribing information below or dial in to their calls.

Business Issues has been going through co-chair transitioning and we were sad to see the resignation of Zon Owen become effective at the end year as he has been a great co-chair and contributor. The sub-workgroup has had several things on their agenda lately such as working on their assigned issues in the Issues Data Base, and the Front-End Edits (FEE) White Paper Version 2 Draft Review. This sub-workgroup holds conference calls every other Tuesday at 3:30 ET, Dial-In Information: 703-736-7290. PIN: 1315330#. The next scheduled call will be January 21.

Data Review has been diligently working on the issues in the issues database that they are responsible for. They have made great progress and we salute them for their perseverance. Their conference calls on every other Thursday from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM ET. 1-703-736-7290 or 1-800-495-0245 pin=1315337

Testing has been working on determining if IG ambiguities needs further definition on the intent to insure that it is not a duplicate effort with X12, Technical testing scenarios, discussing a Testing Certification White Paper to see whether there needs to be a separate white paper with additional clarification on how to test software and systems, and they are working on a Testing readiness survey of the industry to be distributed via the RSAs. The next Testing sub-workgroup conference call will be January 16, 2003 at 11:30 A.M. eastern time. The call in numbers are 703-736-7290 or 1-800-495-0245, pass code 1315339.

✱ Security & Privacy:

Privacy and Security Policies and Procedures sub-workgroup update:

The Policies and Procedures workgroup continues to meet via conference call on alternate Wednesdays at 3:30 pm EST. Our next call is Wednesday, January 15. At each call we will have a moderated discussion of an issue related to HIPAA privacy requirements. The January 15 call will focus on issues surrounding personal representatives. David Ermer, an attorney with Gordon & Barnett, will moderate the discussion. Following calls will deal with other issues on the list of "Top Ten HIPAA Headaches" submitted to the P&P listserv. If you have HIPAA headaches you would like to add to the list of discussion topics, sign up for the P&P listserv and send an e-mail to the listserv at wedi-pandp@lists.wedi.org.

Dial-in numbers for the conference calls are:
Outside DC -- 800-495-0245 PIN 1315334
In DC -- 703-736-7290 PIN 1315334



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The S&P workgroup continues to utilize this time to update the following whitepapers:

- Access and Amendment
- De-Identification
- Notice and Authorization

We are also working on the following two new papers:

- Oral Communications
- Medical Transcriptions

✱ **Education:**

The Education Workgroup has been busy on a number of fronts, including educational forums, audio casts, white papers and other HIPAA resources. Read on for more details and to find out how you can get involved.

Educational Forums

- WEDI SNIP Forum - March 3-5, Chicago, IL
- WEDI Annual Conference - May 19-21, Northern Virginia
- SNIP Implementation Summit - Fall 2003 (Dates and Location TBA)
- Quarterly Audio casts
- Joint Industry-CMS Provider Outreach Pilot
- (Stay tuned to the 'What's New' section of the web site meeting information.)*

White Papers/Resources

- Beyond HIPAA 101 White Paper
- Professional Provider Handbook
- Employer FAQs

Get Involved!

Join our listserv. We communicate primarily through our listserv and conference calls. You may sign up for the listserv at <http://subscribe.wedi.org/>. This is a great way to keep up with and share educational issues and initiatives. Once you sign up for the listserv, you may post messages to the following e-mail address: wedi-education@lists.wedi.org.

We are currently looking for volunteers for the following initiatives. For more information, please contact us as noted below:

- Beyond HIPAA 101 - Mariann Yeager - myeager@emersonsg.com
- Professional Provider Handbook - Dan Morrissey - dm@healthcarestrategies.net
- Employer FAQs - Trudy Krause - tkrause@dhsgroup.com
- SNIP Synopsis - Ann Marie Railing - amrailing@aol.com
- Audio cast Planning - Mariann Yeager - myeager@emersonsg.com



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HIPAA Resource Directory: Access Info, Share Info

This directory includes a listing of resources that are available through regional SNIP affiliates. They are solutions to aid in HIPAA education and implementation. It includes sample tools, forms, agreements and other resources. Visit http://snip.wedi.org/public/articles/resource_directory.PDF to view the directory.

To have your RSA's information posted, you can request a form from Ann Marie Railing at amrailing@wedi.org.

NCHICA—Another Word For ‘Good Information’

Workgroups with the North Carolina Healthcare Information & Communications Alliance (NCHICA), one of the first official WEDI Regional SNIP Affiliates, have created a number of helpful resources for its members and are sharing them with WEDI SNIP.

Interested in what a Business Associate Agreement (BAA) should look like? Curious how to write a Notice of Privacy Practices (NPP) document? Simply go to www.nchica.org, click on HIPAA Resources, then Sample Documents (Reviewed), and voila, there is a page of valuable resources!

It should be noted that a tremendous amount of time went into creating these documents. Should you wish to use any of these resources or reference them in a report, please credit any copy written resources.

Missed An Issue Of The SNIP Synopsis?

Was your online ‘In’ box a tidal wave of messages when you deleted everything that wasn’t marked URGENT? Maybe that’s when you deleted the latest issue of the SNIP Synopsis. Not to worry. You can access every issue when you visit <http://www.wedi.org/snip/public/articles/index%7E14.htm>.

